

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6212

E.O. 11652: NGDS  
TAGS: PFOR CG EG AO  
SUBJECT: GOE VIEWS ON ZAIRE

REF (A) STATE 82515 (B) STATE 81449 (C) CAIRO 5704 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MFA AFRICAN DIRECTOR SIDQI FINDS NEW US ASSISTANCE  
TO ZAIRE MEAGER. HE PERSONALLY EXPECTS NO EGYPTIAN TROOPS  
TO BE SENT AND IS RECOMMENDING EGYPT ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH  
NIGERIAN MEDIATION. ANGOLAN ACTION PART OF BROADER CUBAN/  
SOVIET OFFENSIVE WHICH BEING LAUNCHED BY SOVIETS TO STRENGTHEN  
THEIR HAND FOR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH US. OUTLOOK IN  
SHABA FAVORS INVADING FORCE. IDI AMIN CONDEMNS MOROCCAN  
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ASSISTANCE AND URGES SADAT NOT TO SEND TROOPS. SIDQI FEARS UGANDAN  
TROUBLEMAKING IN EASTERN ZAIRE. OAU CHAIRMAN ORDERS SYG  
TO ANGOLA. EGYPTIAN SOURCES UNANIMOUSLY RULE OUT SENDING OF  
EGYPTIAN TROOPS. END SUMMARY.

1. POLCOUNS CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR AFRICAN DEPARTMENT AHMED  
SIDQI APRIL 13 AND INFORMED HIM OF USG DECISION TO PROVIDE

\$13 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL NON-LETHAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE (REF A) AND COMPARED NOTES ON SITUATION IN SHABA (REF B). SIDQI WAS INTERESTED IN TYPE OF ASSISTANCE BUT CLEARLY IMPLIED IT WAS NOT MUCH IN FACE OF WHAT HE CONTINUES TO SEE AS MAJOR SOVIET/CUBAN OFFENSIVE IN AFRICA. SIDQI WENT ON TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ABOUT CURRENT SITUATION IN ZAIRE AND POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN ROLE:

2. EGYPTIAN ROLE. MILITARY MISSION HAD BEEN SENT TO ZAIRE TO SURVEY THE SITUATION BUT THERE WAS NO COMMITMENT BY EGYPT TO SEND ANY TROOPS (MISSION EXPECTED RETURN APRIL 15). HE PERSONALLY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT NO TROOPS BE SENT. FURTHERMORE, SIDQI FAVORED EGYPT ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH NIGERIA IN A MEDIATING ROLE RATHER THAN LINING UP ON THE SIDE OF ZAIRE. TO DO LATTER SIDQI SAID WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR EGYPT TO MAINTAIN ITS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICA. BEST DEFENSE AGAINST THIS SOVIET/CUBAN OFFENSIVE IS A CAIRO/LAGOS AXIS. ASKED IF CAIRO WAS COORDINATING ITS POLICY WITH NIGERIA, SIDQI SAID NOT YET, BUT THIS WOULD ALSO BE ONE OF HIS PRINIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPERIORS.

3. USSR/CUBA. SOVIETS AND EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES ARE UPSET WITH POSSIBILITY OF EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE. THEY HAVE BEEN MAKING USE OF UN AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S STATEMENT ABOUT CUBANS IN ANGOLA BEING A STABILIZING FORCE IN RADIO BROADCASTS AND IN DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS (SAYING EGYPTIANS ARE "MORE CATHOLIC THAN THE OPPOPE"). SIDQI WAS AWARE OF US CLARIFICATION OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S STATEMENT, BUT HE SAID DENIAL DID NOT KEEP SOVIETS FROM USING IT. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN HAVANA REPORTS THAT SEVERAL CUBAN MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANES FULLY LOADED WITH EQUIPMENT RECENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTED HAVANA. DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES THERE CLAIM THEY ARE DESTINED FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION IN AFRICA. SIDQI SAID THAT THE SOVIET OFFENSIVE HAD AS ITS OBJECTIVE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH US ON WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES. IT WAS TYPICAL SOVIET GAMBIT TO PUT ITSELF IN STRONGEST POSSIBLE POSITION PRIOR TO NEGOTATING. HE THOUGHT THAT ONLY IF ANGOLA BECAME CONVINCED THAT AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL RESISTANCE TO SHABA INVASIION IS STRONG, WILL IT TAKE NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS SERIOUSLY AND POSSIBLY AGREE TO WITHDRAW FORCES. HE THOUGHT PERSONALLY THIS WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY AND THAT FIGHTING WOULD CONTINUE IN FAVOR INVADING FORCES. HOWEVER, SHOULD SITUATION BEGIN TO TURN HE BELIEVED WORSE THING THAT COULD HAPPEN WOULD BE FOR ZAIRE FORCES TO EXERICSE "HOT PURSIUT" INTO ANGOLA. THIS WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS AS WOULD ANY HINT OF SOUTH AFRICA SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU.

4. UGANDA. SIDQI SAID IDI AMIN HAD CALLED IN ALL HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN KAMPALA AND CONDEMNED MOROCCAN SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE. AMIN HAD ALSO SENT MESSAGE TO SADAT URGING EGYPT NOT TO DO SAME AND SAYING ARAB SUPPORT DETRACTED FROM AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY.

SIDQI SAID AMIN COULD CAUSE REAL PROBLEM FOR ZAIRE IN VIEW OF ITS GEOGRAPHICAL CLOSENESS TO EASTERN ZAIRE WHICH NOT FULLY UNDER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL. SIDQI REMARKED IN PASSING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD LIBYAN CHARGE WAS "VERY ACTIVE" IN KAMPALA.

5. OAU. OAU CHAIRMAN MAUCITIUS PM MESSAGE IN SUPPORT OF ZAIRE WAS HELPFUL, EVEN THOUGH IT HAD BEEN SENT WITHOUT CLEARING WITH OAU MEMBERS. IN ADDITION, SIDQI SAID, CHAIRMAN HAD REQUESTED OAU SYG ETEKI TO GO TO ANGOLA ASAP.

6. COMMENT: SIDQI IS ONE OF GOE'S LEADING AFRICAN SPECIALISTS AND IS FACED WITH DILEMMA OF HOW TO COUNTER "SOVIET/CUBAN OFFENSIVE" AND STILL MAINTAIN GOE ROLE AS CHAMPION OF SOLIDARTY OF DIVERSE AFRO-ARAB WORLD. PRESIDENT SADAT, BY SENDING MILITARY TEAM, HAS CLEARLY GOOTTEN FURTHER OUT IN FRONT IN FAVOR OF COUNTERING SOVIETS THAN SIDQI AND MANY OTHER GOE OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE. FOR EXAMPLE, AMONG SENIOR MFA AND MILITARY OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE DISCUSSED SUBJECT, THERE IS UNANIMOUS VIEW THAT EGYPT SHOULD NOT AND WILL NOT SEND TROOPS. ITS COMMITMENTS, THEY SAY, ARE MUCH CLOSER TO HOME, PARTICULARLY EASTERN AND WESTERN BORDERS BUT INCREASINGLY ON SOUTHERN FLANK AS WELL. ONE SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT GOE POLICY REGARDING MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS WAS NO LONGER MADE IN EGYPT BY ONE MAN, BUT MUST BE PART OF COORDINATED STRATEGIC DECISION. SINCE OFFICIALS LIKE SIDQI SEE SHABA INVASION IN TERMS OF "SOVIET OFFENSIVE," THEY TEND TO CONCLUDE THAT TO COUNTER IT IS US RESPONSIBILITY.

7. IN ADDITION, SIDQI MAY BE CONCERNED THAT CREATING A PERMANENT BREACH WITH SUCH MAJOR AFRICAN STATES AS ANGOLA COULD DAMAGE EGYPT'S LEADERSHIP ROLE. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, EGYPT WAS LATECOMER TO RECOGNITION OF NETO REGIME, HAS BEEN UNABLE FOR MONTHS TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT FOR ITS AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO LAUNDA, AND ITS CHARGE THERE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION FOR PERMANENT QUARTERS AND DOES NOT HAVE COMMUNICATIONS LINK WITH CAIRO. MATTHEWS

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## Message Attributes

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